

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

"Walks in Palestine," by H. A. Harper, illustrated from photographs by Cecil V. Shadbol (London). Religious Tract Society, is a handsomely illustrated and tastefully bound quarto, in which text and illustrations vie with one another in interest. Mr. Harper has resided many years in Palestine, and his connection with the Palestine Exploration Fund Association has given him unusually good opportunities for acquiring fresh and exact information concerning the antiquities of the region. Tourists visiting Jerusalem, Joppa, Bethlehem, etc., will find a valuable guide in these chapters, and particularly in those regarding the fabulous parts of the local antiquarian cult. Mr. Harper puts his finger upon every one of the sham historical sites which for so many centuries have lured credulous travellers and too credulous devotees. He quotes freely and aptly from Captain Conder, Professor Sayce, Dr. Robinson, Clermont-Ganneau and other authorities, and points out errors which have been given a mischievous circulation by their adoption in Smith's "Dictionary of the Bible." Mr. Harper's descriptions of life in the Holy Land are graphic, and are marked by an artist's discrimination. He gives the following sketch of one of those strange performances or certain devices which have hitherto baffled all attempts at explanation. The scene is David street, Jerusalem: "Close to the flag stands a dervish, a holy man. He is dressed in slight clothing, with bare arms and bare legs; but in his waist-belt is a perfect armory of slivers and daggers. The music grew more vigorous, and the dervish began to dance. Soon the holy man took a large skewer and thrust it through his cheek, shrank it from the women hailing the deed, the operator moved on. His actions grew wilder, the cries became louder; another skewer, and then a dagger. From every balcony came cries of joy. We traversed the city, and when outside St. Stephen's Gate, leaving the ranks of the pilgrims and pushing in front, we saw the holy man stuck all full of skewers and daggers as a pincushion is of pins. But, strange to relate, there was not a drop of blood to be seen from his face or figure. Whatever the explanation, there were the facts." The photographs from Mr. C. V. Shadbol's photographs are remarkably clear and good, and well mounted. There are twenty-four of these fine illustrations, and they represent the most interesting sites and interiors.

Estes & Lauriat issue for the gift season an imperial octavo volume containing an English rendering of Andre Theuriet's charming "Song Birds and Seasons," with the illustrations of G. M. G. The paper used in the American edition is thick, and not too much glazed, as a good many of the books have been of late. The bird vignettes and tail-pieces of G. M. G., in fact, all his drawings of birds, are characterized by a delightful daintiness, sympathy and grace. The artist has studied birds in and out of the nest, and has so mastered the fluffy innocence of young birds that his sketches of them are full of a rare charm. His management of plumage, and especially of down, is clever, and the results lifelike to a surprising degree. In illustrating the light and poetic text of Mr. Theuriet the artist has been in complete sympathy with his subject, and has done it and himself justice. The translator has not succeeded so well, too many of his renderings being marred by that unfortunate error after literal fidelity which in converting graceful French idioms into clumsy, distorted English does more to obscure a fine style than the boldest paraphrase.

The same publishers issue "Fairy Lilies and other Poems by Alfred Tennyson," illustrated by P. S. Chubb, Hamilton Gibson, J. L. Murphy, T. W. C. Woodward, Edmund H. Garrett, W. S. D. Harper, Charles Copeland, W. L. Taylor, H. P. Barnes, E. P. Hayden, Louis Meynle, Jessie Carter, Shepherd, and Maud Humphrey. The size of the volume is quarto. The illustrations are within decorated margins in tones so light that the effect is disturbing. The drawings themselves are singularly flat and uninteresting, with one or two exceptions, and in many instances it is impossible to perceive any connection between them and the poems they are supposed to illustrate. "Airy, fairy Lilies" appears anything but fairy-like. In fact, the artist has represented her as a pet lamb of a child without a suggestion of childishness at all.

"Mariana in the Moated Grange" and "Mariana in the South" are charmingly early renderings of poetic ideals, and in neither case is Mariana so conceived as to evoke that sympathy born rather of the sense of beauty and helplessness than of any thought of the equities of her situation, which the poem itself appeals to. There is, in short, a conspicuous defect of imagination in most of the illustrations. Copeland has a pretty sketch, but the plates which come nearest to interpretation of the text, and which almost alone rise above the level of hack work, are those of Church and Louis Meynle, illustrating "The Mermaid." In these there is vision of conception and hold over of outline, and they possess life. "Orion" is illustrated with exasperating woodenness, and the look on the face of the unfortunate hero as he pleads his woe way through the snow is far more reminiscent of Bunthorne than of anything else.

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LARGE DECLINE IN TREASURY SURPLUS DURING THE MONTH—ABOUT EQUAL TO LAST YEAR—THE CONTROL.

LEAF'S STATEMENT.

Sunday, Dec. 2-p. m.

The Public Debt statement of December 1 shows that the principal of the funded debt retired during the month of November amounted to \$11,269,020. The Treasury receipts during the month were \$28,596,107. While its ordinary expenditures, exclusive of bond payments, but including \$1,631,393 for premiums on purchased bonds, amounted to \$16,855,058—an excess of \$10,741,049.

The United States Treasury's monthly statement of assets and liabilities as of November 30 shows the available balance to be only \$5,234,610, against \$74,491,970 October 31, 1888, and against \$55,258,701 November 30, 1887. The net cash in the Treasury, however, was increased \$390,000, while the deposits in National banks were reduced \$2,500,000, leaving the net cash balance at \$215,142,924, against \$217,391,531 October 31. The current liabilities, which include credits to pension agents for payment in the month of November, were increased over the liabilities of October 31 more than \$200,000,000. The changes in the net cash in vaults were an increase of \$2,264,558 gold, a decrease of \$1,610,364 legal-tenders, and a decrease of \$5,461,102 silver. When allowance is made for the usual monthly change of 2,800,000 standard dollars, it is seen that the general circulation of legal money was increased by the operations of the Treasury \$2,500,000. The net amount of the contraction of National bank notes during the month was \$2,538,850, or only \$400,000 more than the expansion of legal money.

The net cash balance in the Treasury vaults on November 30 compare with those of the same date of 1887 as follows: Gold, \$1,900,000; 500,000; legal-tenders, \$33,300,000—making the net loss \$29,000,000. To that sum is to be added about \$30,000,000 for the twelve months' coinage of standard dollars, which gives nearly \$60,000,000 added to the general circulation by the Treasury operations of the twelve months. Subjoined are the various detailed statements:

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The following compares the statement of December 1 with that of November 1, 1888:

INTEREST-BEARING DEBT.

Bonds at 4 1/2 per cent. \$1,188,888.89
Bonds at 4 per cent. 62,068,150
Refunding certificates 12,129,000
Gold certificates 1,000,000
Pacific Railroad 6 per cent. 64,253,512

Principal \$95,813,202
Interest 7,129,107
Total \$102,942,309

DEBT ON WHICH INTEREST HAS CEASED SINCE MATURITY.

Interest \$2,151,745
Interest 163,110
Total \$2,314,855

DEBT BEARING NO INTEREST.

Old demand and legal-tender \$346,787,823
Funding certificates 11,380,500
Gold certificates 6,221,313
Federal currency 140,613,628
Silver certificates 226,783,153
Total \$732,806,317

Amount of fractional currency estimated as lost or destroyed, \$4,375,034.

Principal \$1,090,517,706
Interest 10,057,540
Total \$1,100,575,246

Less cash balance available for redemption of National bank notes \$391,675,218
Gold reserve held for the redemption of legal-tender 100,000,000
Net cash in the Treasury \$74,491,970
Total deduction \$566,167,188
Total \$534,408,058

Debt less cash in the Treasury \$1,137,206,636
Fractional silver coin in the Treasury \$24,088,679
Mineral rights in the Treasury 90,414
Total unavailable cash \$24,179,093
Total \$1,161,385,729

THE FOLLOWING COMPARES THE TREASURY'S STATEMENTS OF OCTOBER 31, 1888, AND NOVEMBER 30, 1888:

LIABILITIES.

Deposits for redemption of National bank notes \$88,029,415
Deposits for redemption of 5 per cent redemption fund of National bank notes 6,020,440
District of Columbia deposits for payment of interest, etc. 227,094
Total of trust liabilities \$94,276,949
Interest due and unpaid \$1,070,519
Married bonds and interest and all other amounts paid 3,064,735
Total \$105,372,103

Assets.

Gold coin and bullion, outstanding certificates and 100,000,000 for reserve \$91,074,575
United States notes 36,812,820
National bank notes 4,267,257
Total gold and currency \$132,154,652
Silver dollars, less outstanding certificates \$20,126,288
Silver dollars 10,550,114
Total available silver \$30,676,402
Total cash in Treasury \$162,831,054
Deposits in National banks \$4,480,200
Total cash balance \$167,311,254
Deduct liabilities as above \$142,899,561
Net available balance \$24,411,693

GOLD, LEGAL TENDERS AND SILVER.

Supplementary to the general statement above, the following gives the particulars of gold, legal tenders and silver in the Treasury, and the outstanding certificates as of November 30, 1887, October 31, 1888, and November 30, 1888:

GOLD.

Coin and bullion Outstanding certificates \$1,090,517,706
Nov. 30, 1887 \$1,090,517,706
Oct. 31, 1888 \$1,090,517,706
Nov. 30, 1888 \$1,090,517,706

LEGAL TENDERS.

Notes Outstanding certificates \$11,380,500
Nov. 30, 1887 \$11,380,500
Oct. 31, 1888 \$11,380,500
Nov. 30, 1888 \$11,380,500

SILVER.

Coin and bullion Outstanding certificates \$226,783,153
Nov. 30, 1887 \$226,783,153
Oct. 31, 1888 \$226,783,153
Nov. 30, 1888 \$226,783,153

THE CONTROLLER'S STATEMENT.

The Controller of the Currency's statement of November 30 is as follows:

NATIONAL BANK NOTES.

Total amt. outstanding Oct. 31 \$399,126,250
Decrease during the month \$112,560
To new bank notes 132,203
Total \$386,668,293

Surplus and destroyed during the month \$13,613,013

Decrease in total circulation during the month \$2,508,850

Total amt. outstanding Nov. 30 \$384,160,283

Decrease in total circulation during the month \$2,508,850

Creation secured by United States bonds (as below) \$149,487,373

Decrease during the preceding month \$2,878,505

Amount of outstanding circulation represented by lawful money \$191,074,575

Treasurer of the United States to redeem notes of National Banks \$1,000,000

Under section 4 of the Act of June 20, 1874 \$1,000,000

Under section 6 of the Act of June 20, 1874 \$1,000,000

Total lawful money on deposit \$56,770,027

Decrease in aggregate deposits during the preceding month \$50,600,000

BANK CONDITIONS COMPARED.

By the operations of the Sub-Treasury in the week ended Friday evening, which included the payment of \$990,750 for purchased bonds, and redemption of \$1,000,000 of National bank notes, the Sub-Treasury and \$1,445,000 for gold taken from the Assay Office for export, the banks lost \$2,214,250 cash. A week ago our estimate gave to the banks \$1,000,000 less cash at the close of the week than the average reported in that statement. Yesterday's bank statement of averages reports a loss of only \$3,229,700 cash. This difference indicates that the loss of the interest city to an amount about equal to the Sub-Treasury absorption and that the day's statement of cash very closely approximates the actual holdings at the close of business on Friday. There was an expansion of loans averaging \$590,000. The loss of \$3,977,500 in deposits is a decline which is \$1,300,000 greater than any other decline of the week for a week of 1888. The actual holdings of the banks at the close of business on Friday were \$1,020,000, or a decrease of \$1,383,400, deposits increase \$5,273,600, and "surplus reserve" \$2,701,800. The changes for the week of 1887 were: Loans increase \$562,000; actual holdings \$1,445,000; deposits decrease \$1,259,000; and "surplus reserve" decrease \$1,041,075, so that there was a deficit of \$430,875.

The statement compares with those of corresponding dates of 1887 and 1888 as follows:

Loans \$315,327,700
Actual holdings \$1,020,000
Deposits \$1,020,000
Surplus reserve \$2,701,800

The following shows the relation between the total reserve and the total deposits at the respective dates:

Specie \$55,310,800
Legal-tenders \$100,000,000
Total reserve \$155,310,800

Deposits \$1,020,000
Total deposits \$1,020,000

Surplus \$155,310,800
Total surplus \$155,310,800

Deficit \$430,875

Following is Saturday's statement in detail:

Assets.

Loans \$315,327,700
Actual holdings \$1,020,000
Deposits \$1,020,000
Surplus reserve \$2,701,800

Liabilities.

Deposits for redemption of National bank notes \$88,029,415
Deposits for redemption of 5 per cent redemption fund of National bank notes 6,020,440
District of Columbia deposits for payment of interest, etc. 227,094
Total of trust liabilities \$94,276,949
Interest due and unpaid \$1,070,519
Married bonds and interest and all other amounts paid 3,064,735
Total \$105,372,103

Assets.

Gold coin and bullion, outstanding certificates and 100,000,000 for reserve \$91,074,575
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Total gold and currency \$132,154,652
Silver dollars, less outstanding certificates \$20,126,288
Silver dollars 10,550,114
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Total cash balance \$167,311,254
Deduct liabilities as above \$142,899,561
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